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### UM's Reksten takes national teaching award

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Aug. 19, 1997

**Contact:** Patty Reksten, (406) 543-0107.

### **UM'S REKSTEN TAKES NATIONAL TEACHING AWARD**

#### **MISSOULA--**

Patty Reksten, a photojournalism professor at The University of Montana-Missoula, recently was named the Robin F. Garland Educator of the Year by the National Press Photographers Association.

In presenting the award, the association's Past President Steve Sweitzer cited Reksten for having built "almost single-handedly one of America's strongest and most distinguished university photojournalism programs ... and for teaching professionalism by assigning students to explore issues of importance to Native Americans and all citizens of her region."

The NPPA award joins several others Reksten has won. In 1987 she received the National Teaching Award in graphics and publications design from the American Society of Newspaper Editors and the Poynter Institute for Mass Media Studies. As a photographer in the late '70s, she won several awards for in-depth photo stories from the National Newspapers Association and took first place in an international newspaper photo-of-the-year contest sponsored by NPPA, the University of Missouri and Nikon.

As a measure of her teaching success, Reksten's students consistently place in the College Photographer of the Year and the William Randolph Hearst National Photojournalism contests. In 1994, one of her former students had five photographs accepted for an exhibit at the Detroit Institute



of Arts.

A Kalispell native, Reksten joined UM's journalism faculty as an instructor in 1983 and designed and taught the school's first publications design course in 1984. For the past five years she and journalism Professor Carol Van Valkenburg have directed the Native News Honors Project, a program for Indian and non-Indian journalism students to explore issues that affect Montana's Indian population. Each year students in the project publish a report in tabloid format with photos and in-depth reporting.

Before coming to UM, Reksten worked on the public relations staff of St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula and had been a photojournalist and reporter for newspapers in Missouri, Michigan and Montana. She has a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri and a master's from UM.

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Dailies, specialized western papers, tribal papers  
Reksten.rl